

e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 58

January 2011

No. 1



Calendar

Mon., Jan. 3	Christmas tree and monthly yard waste collection; "Wildlife of Garrett Park," photography by Vickie Baily, Penn Place gallery (till Feb. 5; see p 7)	Thurs., Jan. 13	Jam Session, Town Hall, 8 pm
Wed., Jan. 5	Nursery School parents meeting, Town Hall, 7 pm	Fri., Jan. 14	Film Society, Town Hall, <i>Great Expectations</i> ; dinner 7 pm, film 8 pm (see p 3)
Thurs., Jan. 6	GP CAN cider and cheese reception and climate discussion, Town Hall, 8 pm (see p 6)	Sun., Jan. 16	Opening reception, photography by Vickie Baily, Penn Place gallery, 3 to 5 pm
Sat., Jan. 8	Large item pickup; GIVES collection, Penn Place, 9 am-1 pm	Fri., Jan. 21	Pick up <i>Bugle</i> from table in PO lobby
Mon., Jan. 10	Christmas tree collection; Town Council meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm	Sun., Jan. 23	Archives presentation, Town Hall, 2 pm; "Depression Era in GP" (see p 5)
Tues., Jan. 11	Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm, with "Safety First" guests; <i>Bugle</i> deadline, 4 pm	Thurs., Jan. 27	Senior Games and Tea, Town Hall, 1:30 pm
		Sat., Jan. 29	Town Dinner, Town Hall (see article, p 4)

Bites and Bights at December Council Meeting

On Monday, December 13, members of our District 17 delegation to the Maryland State Legislature, Senator Jennie Forehand and Delegates Kumar Barve and Luis Simmons, met with the Town Council before the regular December Council Meeting. A few citizens also braved the perishing cold for discussion, dessert, and coffee at 7:30. Normally stalwart *Bugle* reporter Margaret Soltan was laid low by illness, so editor Barbara Collier substituted, arriving just before 8 to find an enticing array of hot drinks and desserts available for those in attendance.

At that point, the Council, delegation, and citizens were discussing a range of topics, including the need for improvements to the Pepco infrastructure and options for offshore wind farming in the "Mid-Atlantic Bight" (a region along the East Coast that runs from Massachusetts to North Carolina); apparently offshore wind farming is considered less dangerous to birds and bats than wind farms on land.

Shortly after 8:30, the members of the District 17 delegation departed, and the meeting proper

was called to order. In presentations by residents, Tara Flynn provided an update on the status of the Nursery School project. Basically, things are on track: the Maryland Historical Trust has confirmed that no historical easement is required, the architect has almost completed the design, cost estimates to meet code requirements are generally consistent with the planned budget, and the project should be able to start the permitting process in January, with construction starting possibly March or April.

In his report, the Mayor commended Nancy Schwartz and Marian Green for their work on the interactive map, now available from the town Web site (under the "About Us" tab). The archives advisory committee is recruiting members (see p 5), and the town will be looking to hire someone to work part time on the archives. On the Nursery School project, the Mayor reported that although the lease was not yet ready for Council action, it was progressing. Necessary easements between the town and Montgomery County Public Schools are being finalized.

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The Mayor also reported that pipe trenching work had begun related to the construction of the new elementary school. In the 4800 block of Oxford, the damage to tree roots from the work was said to be minimal, because trenching had been done in the same area in 1993, and the roots had apparently not grown back appreciably. However, an adjacent excavation near Oxford and Kenilworth was begun to connect pipes to a main line. According to the Mayor, this excavation was much larger than the town had been led to believe, and was begun without notice to the town and before the easement was finalized. Accordingly, the town had the work stopped and will be seeking assurances that the Montgomery County Public Schools will pay for removal and replacement if any trees are damaged, as well as additional reimbursement for legal fees incurred.

In Councilmember reports, Councilmember Schulp reported on the activities of the Parks and Open Spaces Committee, which has been considering various improvements to the town's parks, bearing in mind costs, possible county plans, and available funding, both from the town and from the state's Program Open Space (which may dry up in the current economic climate). He also mentioned that it had been concluded that the subsidy at the Cambria tennis court was probably owing to an old water tank and did not present an environmental issue.

Councilmember Irons announced a cider, cheese, and climate discussion planned by Garrett Park's Conservation Action Network for January 6 (see p 6), as well as the planned "Climate Thermometer" that will gauge energy-saving and other "green" efforts by the town and its citizens. She is also going to attend upcoming county meetings on rewrites to residential and agricultural zoning.

After approval of the minutes from November 8, the meeting turned to discussion items: stormwater projects, a draft regulation on public information, and the status of the Nursery School lease. The stormwater projects were the subject of a November 22 working session. At that time, Chester Engineering was asked to present information to provide the Council with better understanding of its pipe size requirements calculations and to return with plans for projects in three areas. These projects are to be discussed in January at a working session, which will inform the budget work session planned for February.

The Mayor also announced that the town had decided to develop a regulation implementing Maryland's Public Information Act (PIA). The draft regulation, based on model rules provided by the state attorney general, is currently posted for comment on the town Web site (see "Public Records Information" under the "Documents" tab). The Council is expected to consider the draft regulation at its January meeting and finalize the regulation in February.

Resident Charles Berry spoke against the regulation, quoting the mandate of the state PIA "to enable people to have access to government records without unnecessary cost or delay." He stated that the fees he was charged for search and copying (\$190) were onerous. The Mayor stated that he could appeal the fees.

On the Nursery School lease, currently being finalized, the Mayor reported that it would be circulated to the Council and the town's attorney for consideration via e-mail, after which the Mayor would ask for authority to sign the lease.

In his financial report, the Town Administrator noted that he had moved some stormwater expenses from this fiscal year to the next, as it appeared they would not be incurred until then.

Mayor Keller closed by noting that if adopted, the PIA regulation would be the first formal regulations issued by the town. Previously, the town has generally relied mostly on ordinances or informal practices. It may be, he noted, that more regulations will be needed over time—perhaps next on town trees and driveways?

Barbara Collier

Green Again

Florence Gootenberg sent us money for this month's banner in honor of her husband, Santa Roy. We thank her. We are now solvent through June. If you would care to donate, send a check for \$60, made out to the Garrett Park Citizens Association, to Box 98, and we will add you to our list. If you wish to dedicate the banner to someone or something, just let me know. Thanks.

Next month we will be sending out envelopes for you to use to mail your dues to the Citizens Association. You can either do that or pay them when you attend the Town Dinner on January 29. Remember, dues are \$10 per individual or \$20 per family at any one address in town, and the dues help pay for the *Bugle*, the 4th of July festivities, the Town Dinner, and other special happenings in town.

Mary Moyer

Visit Garrett Park's Web site:

www.garrettpark-md.gov

The *Garrett Bugle* is a publication of the Citizens Association of Garrett Park, published 10 times a year. Publication of the *Bugle* is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$20 per family or \$10 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

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Secretary: Leslie Bethke-Pope
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First-class subscriptions cost \$15 (bulk mail subscriptions are no longer available). Letters to the editor can be submitted by mail or hand to *Bugle* staff or by e-mail through the town Web site: www.garrettpark-md.gov/submit-BugleArticle.php. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

Town Administrator Notes

Snow removal: Please help Butch, Frank, and José keep our streets clear when it snows:

1. Please park cars off the streets when snow is predicted.
2. Please do not block intersections, particularly the Kenilworth/Rokeby barricade. Also, the hill on Oxford leading down to Weymouth has been a problem, with cars parked on both sides of the street, making it impossible for the plow to get through. Keeping this clear allows access for emergency vehicles and speeds up plowing.
3. Please keep sidewalks in front of your homes shoveled. The town's Maintenance Department will take care of Penn Place and the Town Hall. Please call the Town Office if you would like a list of young residents who are interested in work shoveling snow.
4. Do remember that Argyle Avenue is closed for sledding when snow falls. Be especially careful where Argyle meets Rokeby at Wells Park. Should the hill become icy, the hill will be cleared or sanded.
5. Residents are asked to clear their own driveways all the way to the street.

If any residents have special concerns about access to their homes during or after a snowstorm, please contact the Town Office so that we can be aware of them and provide assistance as needed.

We will make every effort to push back driveways and clear out snowbound cars. If you experience unusual problems, please call the Town Office (301-933-7488).

Leaf Removal, Yard Waste: Leaf removal has finished. Please do not put leaves in the street; they should be bagged and will be removed with the monthly yard waste. Remember, yard waste is collected on the *second Monday* of January (Jan. 10) and the first Monday of February (Feb. 7). We will return to weekly collection in March.

Trash, Recycling, & Large Items: Trash and recycling will take place on the usual days through the holidays. Please be sure to break down cardboard boxes to help the recycling crew. There will be a large item pickup on Saturday, January 8.



Christmas Trees: Christmas trees will be collected and chipped by the town's Maintenance Department as they are put out. Please remove as much tinsel as possible, and, of course, all ornaments, so we can keep our woodchip pile as clean as possible.

Holiday Tips: Many residents have already given generously to the Holiday Tip Fund for the men who collect our trash. If anyone still wishes to make a gift, it is not too late. We typically receive numerous contributions after Christmas and make a second "New Year" distribution to these deserving individuals.

Town Dinner: The date for the Town Dinner is Saturday, January 29. Save the date!

Elizabeth, Butch, Frank, and José join me in wishing all town residents a happy holiday season. As always, if you have questions, concerns, or just want to chat, please feel free to stop by the office any time, or call 301-933-7488. (The office will be closed on December 24 and 31.)

Ted Pratt, Town Administrator

Garrett Park Film Society

Oprah picked the book, but first the GPFS picked the film! Join us on Friday night, January 14, for *Great Expectations*: "a boy meets an escaped convict in the Romney Marshes, with strange consequences for both of them." David Lean directed this 1946 film starring John Mills, Jean Simmons, Alec Guinness, and a host of other terrific British character actors. Many have called *Great Expectations* the best Dickens adaptation and one of David Lean's best films. Nominated for five Academy Awards, including Best Picture, Best Director, and Best Screenplay, it won for Best Cinematography and Best Art Direction.

Dinner is served at 7 pm (menu to be determined; cost \$10 or less). Soda, beer, and wine will be available at prices ranging from \$1 to \$5. The film is shown at 8 pm and is free to members (still time to join!) or \$5 per person or \$10 per family for nonmembers.

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Citizens Association Notes

There is no Citizens Association meeting scheduled for January 2011.

At the last meeting, Marian Green and Nancy Schwartz entertained a full Town Hall with an informative and interactive “GP Trivia Night” and a look at GP’s history and the archives. The trivia night began with each attendee taking a quiz about GP. Not one person cried out that they got all the questions correct. Nancy and Marian shared stories about the development of GP, the truth about the Chevy houses, and the shocking news that GP was not the first nuclear-free zone. One topic flowed into another as residents asked questions and shared memories and knowledge.

We learned various ways that GP has demonstrated a sense of community throughout its history. During the depression, “Hard Times parties” were hosted, created as a way of bringing the community together and making the best of the hard times. Residents held potluck dinners and celebrated together on chipped china, cups with missing handles, and so forth, and wore their oldest clothes. To find out more about the Hard Time parties or other GP history, please plan a visit to the archives on the ground floor of Penn Place.

Nancy and Marian also discussed the Interactive Map Project, which highlights the history of the houses in GP. The map produced by this ongoing project is accessible via the town Web site (www.garrettpark-md.gov), under “About Us.” Volunteers are needed to help with further research. If you are interested, please contact Nancy Schwartz at 301-942-3291.

The CA would like to thank Marian and Nancy for sharing their knowledge and a wonderful presentation. More in-depth presentations on specific topics are planned for the spring.

Upcoming: Town Dinner

The Town Dinner is Saturday, January 29. To help us reflect on how our town weathered hard times in the Depression, this town dinner will honor GP’s “Hard Times parties.” Please join us

and share stories of how you have made the best of times out of the worst of times. As in the Hard Times parties in the past, bring any chipped china, cups without handles, or the like that you would like to share. In keeping with the spirit of the original parties, we encourage all to dress in worn-out or hobo clothes—dungarees, overalls, flannel shirts, tattered jeans (but not the “distressed” ones with designer holes!), or vintage clothing from the Depression era.

Doors will open at 6 pm and we will sit down at 6:30. As always, this is a pot luck supper. Along with your own serving utensils and eating utensils, you are asked to bring one of the following: appetizers, salad and breads, main dish, or dessert (enough for 8 to 10 people). A fee of \$5 per person will be collected at the door to cover the cost of decorations, nonalcoholic drinks, and paper goods. We encourage you to pay your Citizens Association dues at the same time (\$10 for individuals and \$20 per family). Alcoholic beverages will not be provided; however, please feel free to bring your own. Space is limited, so reserve your space by contacting Mario Grande as soon as possible. Please be sure to state and spell your name, the number of people attending, and the dish you plan to bring.

The 2011 Officers of the Citizens Association will be elected at the dinner. If you are interested in joining the board or in helping out with the CA, please contact Chris Strong at Chris.s.strong@gmail.com.

Citizens Association Annual Dues

The 2011 Citizens Association annual dues are being collected: \$10 for individuals and \$20 per family. These dues cover the cost of printing the *Bugle* and costs associated with putting on all CA events (Town Dinner, July 4, Newcomers’ Reception, Spooky Woods, and Pumpkin Carving). All *Bugle* editing and distribution and time put into the production of town events is done strictly on a volunteer basis.

We depend on your dues to produce the things that make Garrett Park a fun place to live. Please submit dues at the Town Dinner or by mailing them to the Citizens Association at Box 456 in Garrett Park. An envelope will be included in the next edition of the *Bugle* for your convenience.

Garrett Park listserv. To join this electronic forum, which allows neighbors to communicate information about town concerns, safety issues, upcoming events, and recommended services, e-mail Todd Harris or sign in at groups.yahoo.com/group/GarrettParkneighbors/join.

Questions or comments for the Citizens Association? If so, please send a note to P.O. Box 456 or e-mail Chris Strong (Chris.s.strong@gmail.com).



Archives News

A play written by an irritated neighbor? A description of a time when the north side of town was called Yankee Town?

“The Depression Era in Garrett Park,” as seen through the eyes of residents, will be presented on Sunday, January 23, at 2 pm in the Town Hall. All are invited!

Call for Memoirs

Let’s make 2011 the year of the memoir. The Garrett Park Archives is a fine collection of diverse material. In memoirs, personal recollections are often vividly presented by the writers giving us a unique picture of the past.

In your family during 2011, try to capture some memories by encouraging this kind of writing to be placed in the Town Archives. Young children might enjoy seeing their work in the glass case in the Post Office before it is added to the Archives. Turn the memoirs in to the Town Office. You are part of the town’s history!

Marian Green

Calling All Historiography Buffs!

It is time for all lovers of Garrett Park to unite their avocation and residency (to very loosely paraphrase Robert Frost): Volunteer your services to the newly created Town Archives advisory committee. The Town Council officially created the committee by ordinance at its July meeting. The committee, when it is fully populated, will advise the town and the Council on the operations of the town’s archives, which are located in a windowless back room on the first floor of Penn Place, and will help guide the work of an archival clerk, who will be hired to manage the documents and other memorabilia.

The written and oral record of Garrett Park’s rich and colorful history, stretching back over more than a century, is contained in the archives. While much work has already been done to organize the archival material, much valuable material remains to be sorted and classified. At the same time, protective measures must be developed to preserve the material and prevent destruction by fire, water, and such threats. In addition, policies

governing the use of the archives and the donation of archival material must be written.

When you have a chance, come visit the archives and get a glimpse at the thousands of pages of written documents and paraphernalia covering all aspects of the town’s history and culture, and see the dozens of tapes that contain the remembrances of a slew of town residents who have called Garrett Park home over the past several decades.

Better still, please volunteer to add your talents to the archives committee. The work will not be onerous or too time-consuming. Indeed, it will be fascinating and rewarding, and will give you a greater appreciation for the intricate texture of the neighborhood we and our predecessors have called home since the 1880s.

The committee will consist of seven citizens, plus town officials. To be eligible, you have had to live in town for at least a year and have “special interest, knowledge, experience or training in such fields as library science, records conservation, database compilation and maintenance, historic preservation, oral history, or complementary disciplines,” according to the ordinance that gave birth to the committee. The term of membership will be three years (although some of the first members can leave early).

If you’re interested (and please be so), please contact the Town Office, the Mayor, your favorite Town Councilmember, or Marian Green. You’d be surprised how much fun it can be.

Charlie Snyder

GIVES Soup Supper a Success

Thanks to all who showed up at Town Hall with home-made soups and yummy breads at the GIVES traditional Soup Supper on November 14. The evening raised more than \$700 and provided everyone present a chance to reflect on how fortunate we are to have shelter, food, and friends. Glenda Ingham was recognized and thanked for leading GIVES volunteer efforts for over a decade. Nathan Mischler of Thrive DC, one of two organizations that receive checks from GIVES, talked about the variety of services—from computer labs to showers—that the nonprofit delivers.

In his brief remarks, Nathan mentioned warm socks as a continuing need for homeless clients when weather turns cold and wet. December GIVES volunteer Lynn Foster chose Sock-a-Thon as her theme for the collection in the Post Office, and it was an overflowing success! The box is still there, ready for your gently used or new winter socks or hats, which GIVES will collect through January.

If you wish to make an end-of-year donation, your check can be mailed to Karen Anderson, PO Box 129, Garrett Park, MD 20896.



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Mon - Sat

9am-7pm
Sunday

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Strathmore

Tuckerman

Grosvenor Metro

Rockville Pike

10401

Market

Grosvenor Place

Bugle Notes . . . Sweet and Sour

- ♪ Belated congratulations to Paul and Jackie Osmond on the birth of their ninth grandchild. Proud parents are Holly (Osmond) and Jeff Rowe of Proctorville, Ohio; their new daughter was born on July 30. She joins a sister (age 8) and brother (soon to be 4).
- ♪ The new Garrett Park School is well on its way, finally. The builders say that it should be done in the time specified, so that the school can move back home. It is very crowded in the Grosvenor building.
- ♪ Leo Bradford won Best in Show and second Best in Show at Kent, Loudoun, and Prince George's County Fairs; Grand Champion at Prince William, Anne Arundel, and Calvert County Fairs; second to the Grand Champion and 3 Champion rosettes at the Montgomery County fair; and the President's Award for the Best Horticultural Exhibit at the Maryland State Fair. A yard that Leo designed, landscaped, and maintains won the Supreme Grand Champion of the West Gate of Lomond Garden Tour. Way to go, Leo.
- ♪ We had camels walking, cows mooing, sheep baaing, and donkeys stomping at the Do-it-yourself Carolfest on December 10 at the Town Hall. The children were ably led in their parts by Sue Numrich, director. Thanks go to Jean Horan for her yummy refreshments and Marian Green for the decorations.
- ♪ A temporary farewell to Ken and Glenda Ingham, who will be moving to Hermosa Beach, California, for January, February, and March to be close to their daughters and grandchildren. Happy travels, and see you in the spring.
- ♪ Congratulations to Robert LeMar, who won Best in Show at the Rockville Art League juried show. The show is open through January 4 at the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery.
- ♪ Ted Garber, who lived in Garrett Park Estates as a child, is Strathmore's Artist in Residence for January and will perform two concerts in the mansion (Jan. 12 and 26 at 7:30 pm).
- ♪ At the Walter Johnson High School fall awards ceremony, two of Garrett Park's younger residents were named respective MVPs of their teams: a young Andrews (for tennis) and Lillie (for golf). If you want a tennis or golf game, they might be available, but don't expect to win! Congrats to both.

Beat the Heat in 2011

Garrett Park's Conservation Action Network (CAN) invites young and old to a cider and cheese reception and climate discussion on Thursday, January 6, at 8 pm at the Town Hall. Our invited speaker, Judy McGuire from the Town of Chevy Chase, will focus on six simple steps that average folks can do that will save energy, save money, and help lower greenhouse gas emissions. Chevy Chase has been recognized as an innovative leader among Maryland municipalities in sponsoring local action to reduce carbon. From promoting bike riding to solar panels, they have tried it, and we can benefit from their experience.

Don't miss the evening's unveiling of the brand new Climate Thermometer (crafted by Ken Ingham out of scavenged and recycled materials),

which will be prominently displayed in the Post Office lobby starting January 8. There is room for all of Garrett Park on that huge thermometer, whether your family is buying wind power, or taking steps to retrofit your home for energy efficiency, or agreeing to have a professional home energy audit. Help our town "beat the heat!" and turn your popsicle stick from red to green (find out what that means by coming by).

Mark the night on your calendar and please plan to attend! If you are unable to come, but you have taken one of the green actions above, please contact either Karen Anderson or Joanne Schmader so we can add you to our list.

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Fond Farewell to Garrett Parkers

I began composing this letter on Thanksgiving Day, 2010, so it is appropriate that I say "thank you" for the friendly, caring town that Donn and I happily joined 54 years ago! It's been a great place to live and raise a family.

Early on we felt welcome. The Garrett Park Women's Club had already invited women from the GP Estates (where we lived for 4 years) to come to town for events, which we did. The first community event we attended was a fall bazaar (where I met Peg Norman) in the "old" school. I believe it was held to raise funds for improving the Community Center. The Center housed the Garrett Park Library, and later added the co-op nursery school, which is still going strong today.

These events do not "just happen." They require ideas, follow-through, and hard work by many volunteers to become a reality.

One need only read the Bugle calendar for what happens in Garrett Park now: GPNS Craft Fair, Film Society shows, GIVES, Casual Musicians Club Jam, Lunch Bunch, Senior Games and Tea, etc. I can truly say, Wow, what a community! It's been quite a run.

Come and visit me at my new place at Asbury in Gaithersburg. My new address is 401 Russell Ave., Trott Building, #301, Gaithersburg, MD 20877. For my new phone number, see the print edition of the *Bugle*.

Love and affection,
Millie Mader

Art at Penn Place

From January 3 to February 5, the Penn Place gallery will present "The Wildlife of Garrett Park," an exhibit of photography by Vickie Baily. All are invited to the opening reception on Sunday, January 16, from 3 to 5 pm. Vickie sent the following notes:

"Sometimes, with all the talk about species being threatened and habitats disappearing, we start to imagine that nothing is left. It can be hard to continue our vital Earth stewardship when we tell ourselves it's already too late. A year ago I decided to begin a private bio-search to see for myself what was still around. I was already taking daily jogs in and around Garrett Park—I decided to start carrying my Canon Rebel XTi to see what I could see, wildlife-wise, and, as a bonus, add the camera's 5-pound weight to my exercise routine.

"I grew up 50 years ago in a wooded part of Tennessee where birds and animals were part of regular life, but I am still a rank amateur when it comes to real birding. Fortunately I was a better photographer than birder, though I hope no one saw me when I first aimed my lens at the tiny target, high in the canopy. One problem was that my EF 300mm 1:4 L lens wasn't really made for serious bird photography (though it was great for foxes, raccoons, and owls). I decided to begin by shooting the birds in my neighbor Anne's backyard, as when I'd come back from my usual loop through Rock Creek Park there were more birds over there than out in the woods. I'm happy to say that my first attempts are not included in this exhibit, but before long, I got a really nice shot of a Carolina wren—a photograph that is given pride of place—not so much because it's the best picture, as because it's the one that gave me enough hope to keep going.

"The pictures in the exhibit are generally arranged in the order in which I shot them. Sometimes a bird appears later because it was harder to find; sometimes it means the bird is only here

seasonally; and sometimes it means the bird wouldn't hold still long enough for me to get even a bad shot of it for the first 10 months or so.

"From the start I had a passion (think Peter Matthiessen and snow leopards) for getting a close-up of the belted kingfishers that have so often accompanied my walks along Rock Creek. Alas, as I write this that holy grail still eludes me, though I have many distant shots. In pursuit, I began to work my way farther and farther up Rock Creek. I'll never forget the day when I suddenly arrived at Lake Bernard Frank—it seemed like absolute paradise to me. The trash I'd spent years collecting in lower sections of Rock Creek was magically absent, the water was deep and clear, there were fewer invasive plants, and greeting me from across the lake came the kingfisher's chattering cry. After watching a show about how crows can recognize individual human faces, I have decided that kingfishers have a similar skill: they can recognize women with cameras.

"Included in this exhibit are the photographs of more than 50 birds. There are also foxes, raccoons, deer, rabbits, squirrels, and snakes. That's plenty for me to feel that anything I can do to protect the Earth is still well worth the trouble."



Come visit the antiques shop on Kensington's Antique Row owned by your Garrett Park neighbor, Margaret Goldsborough. This is recycling at its very best: practical, well made furniture & decorative pieces that have stood the test of time.

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Letter from the Mayor

As we reflect on the closing year, we are reminded of the qualities that make Garrett Park an especially pleasant place to live, and how fortunate we are to share this town's singular sense of community. One of the special aspects of our community is the Betsy White Emergency Loan Fund, established over 40 years ago by the Women's Club to provide emergency financial assistance to residents when other resources are not available. The Fund—in its inception and as it has been sustained over the years—is a good example of both the generosity and the ingenuity of town residents. Recently, Paul and Nancy Dickson hosted a fundraising event that raised the better part of \$3,000; Paul donated books, and other residents devised fresh ways to encourage contributions to the Fund: Jenny Krivanek and Dan Marsh, Margaret Goldsborough, and Dave Almy. Dave went direct from the Betsy White event to the Town Hall, to greet a large turnout of children eager to meet Santa at another Women's Club-sponsored event of long standing. The Women's Club also conceived the Holiday Decoration Contest, a new Garrett Park "tradition" that brightens the town, literally and figuratively.

Another example of community spirit melded with support of a good cause is Lucia Petito's holiday recital (in advance of her Senior Recital at Eastman School of Music), at Town Hall on December 21. The recital was in support of the Ilah Geiser Music Scholarship, which helps promising music students at Garrett Park Elementary School.

Those of us fortunate enough to attend the November Citizens Association meeting were delighted to learn fascinating, sometimes obscure or amusing, but always intriguing historical facts about the town, drawn from the Town Archives. The program was devised and presented by

Nancy Schwartz and Marian Green, who deserve particular praise for an event that made the town's past come vividly to life. Nancy has also spearheaded the creation of the Interactive Map, which can be accessed from the "About Us" menu at the town Web site. For a fascinating sample, check the history for 4517 Clermont Place (some of which was related at the Citizens Association meeting), and you will see a good example of the extraordinary charm and sense of community that are reflected in the historic treats gleaned from the archives. We owe Nancy and the Historic Preservation Committee a tremendous debt of gratitude for all the work that continues to be done on this project.

The coming year holds promise and challenges. The town's acquisition of the Garrett Park Estates Local Park is nearly complete. By spring, the Nursery School anticipates beginning construction to renovate the Community Center building. Work on the new "green" Garrett Park Elementary School is well under way. The Town Council will continue its consideration of changes to the town's land use laws and other recommendations of the Land Use Task Force. Modernizing and upgrading elements of the town's infrastructure will continue. We will seek to carry forward the legacy of Barbara Shidler and others who have worked so carefully to preserve the archival history of Garrett Park. All of this will need to be undertaken in a setting of fiscal responsibility heightened by broader economic concerns. And no doubt we will face other challenges. But no one involved in any of these enterprises considers it anything less than fully worth the effort, to preserve our exceptional and distinctive town. Have a satisfying and happy new year.

Chris Keller

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